

Water Rights Advisory Work Group – December 16, 2013

**Water Right Section Update – Ron Ellis**

3<sup>rd</sup> Environmental flows rule package

- Adoption scheduled for February 2014
- 2,064 comment letters received to date;

LCRA Water Management Plan;

Lower BoisD'arc Creek Water Use Permit application, technical review ending;

Drought Calls received in July, resolved in November.

New Staff:

Lori Hamilton – Aquatic Scientist on Resource Protection Team

**Water Rights Permitting Update**

Senate Bill 2615 effective September 2013

- Updated Texas Water Code §11.031 - higher penalties for late water use reports or for not submitting water use reports. Previous cap on penalties was removed.

Colorado Water Use Reports mailed out November 20, 2013. Completed reports need to be returned by January 10, 2014.

Remaining Water Use Reports will be mailed, as normal, in late December or early January and due March 1, 2014.

**Lower Colorado River Authority Water Management Plan Update – Kathy Alexander**

Staff is updating naturalized flows in the Colorado RB

Compiling data up to 2012 creating flows to put in model

2013 data set needs to be added as well, water use reports are fundamental part of that

Finishing the modeling and reports by April 2014

**Watermaster Update – Amy Settemeyer**

Evaluation for the Trinity-San Jacinto and Coastal Basins concluded this fall.

Recommendation to not create a watermaster for these areas;

Upcoming evaluations in 2014 for the Sabine and Neches River Basins and the Neches – Trinity Coastal Basins;

Brazos Watermaster Petition Hearing was held in September, waiting for a Proposal for Decision;

Adopted Rio Grande Watermaster Rule Revision for removing the one year limitation for contracts.

### **Commission Actions Update – Robin Smith**

- Ralph Hall reservoir project: impoundment of 180,000 acre-feet and diversion of 45,000 acre-feet of water per year,  
Commission granted;
- San Saba River domestic and livestock calls. ED issued Order but the calls were withdrawn before the Order could be presented to the Commission;
- Brazos River Authority (BRA) Sysops permit  
Certified questions from SOAH judges,  
2011 went to hearing,  
2012 Commission remanded back to SOAH and required Water Management Plan,  
Application is back in hearing. BRA applicant wanted to certify questions whether BRA has to meet Senate Bill 3 provisions. 6 month abatement period.

### **Closing – Sonia Crawford**

Next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2014.

Comments and topics for discussion can be emailed to Sarah Henderson or Sonia Crawford.